

Coronavirus Disease – COVID-19

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- The death toll from the coronavirus outbreak is over 3,050 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China. There have been more than 89,800 global cases.
- During a press conference, World Health Organization Director-General, Tedros said, the epidemics in the Republic of Korea, Italy, Iran and Japan are the organization's greatest concern. *"We appreciate that people are debating whether this is a pandemic or not. We are monitoring the situation every moment of every day and analyzing the data. WHO will not hesitate to describe this as a pandemic if that's what the evidence suggests,"* he said. He added: *"We are in uncharted territory. We have never before seen a respiratory pathogen that is capable of community transmission, but which can also be contained with the right measures."*
- The World Health Organization says the outbreak has reached the "highest level" of risk for the world, with the director-general warning it can go in "any direction."
- The founder and leader of Shincheonji religious group, which is at the center of the rapid rise in South Korean coronavirus cases, apologized "sincerely" to the country today at his first news conference since the nation's outbreak.
- The youngest patient in South Korea is a 45-day-old baby whose parents both also have the virus.
- "ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) has announced today that the risk level has risen from **moderate to high** for people in the European Union, in other words the virus continues to spread," von der Leyen said.
- A regional administration in France has announced the closure of more than 100 schools in the Oise region, affecting more than 28,000 students. These schools were closed as part of precautionary measures against the spread of the coronavirus. Also, the Louvre museum in Paris remains closed.
- Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Andorra, Portugal, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Iceland, Ireland and Czech Republic reported their first case of coronavirus.
- Italy now has 1,694 cases and 34 deaths -- the most coronavirus cases of any country outside of Asia. And it's not slowing down -- on Sunday, Italy reported a 50% increase in cases compared to the previous day.
- During an interview, Dr. John Nkengasong, a director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said, *"There are two dangers facing Africa now -- the first is our ability to detect quickly, and the second is the ability to contain it. Nigeria was able to detect the virus quickly. The coming days will tell us if the containment strategy is right. The contacts of an individual who tests positive must be isolated and their contacts traced quickly"*.
- The International Monetary Fund and World Bank have issued a joint statement on the coronavirus, saying they are prepared to provide financial and technical help to their member countries.

Countries	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Algeria	3	0	0
Armenia	1	0	0
Australia	33	1	15
Austria	16	0	0
Azerbaijan	3	0	0
Bahrain	47	0	0
Belarus	1	0	0
Belgium	8	0	1
Brazil	2	0	0
Cambodia	1	0	1
Canada	24	0	4
China	80,026	2,912	44,801
Croatia	8	0	0
Czechia	3	0	0
Denmark	4	0	0
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	705	7	100
Dominican Republic	1	0	0
Ecuador	6	0	0
Egypt	2	0	1
Estonia	1	0	0
Finland	6	0	1
France	130	2	12
Georgia	3	0	0
Germany	150	0	16
Greece	7	0	0
Hong Kong	100	2	36
Iceland	3	0	0
India	5	0	3
Iran	1,501	66	291
Iraq	21	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0
Israel	10	0	1
Italy	1,704	41	83
Japan	274	6	42
Kuwait	56	0	0
Lebanon	13	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0
Luxembourg	1	0	0
Macao	10	0	6
Malaysia	29	0	22
Mexico	5	0	0
Monaco	1	0	0
Nepal	1	0	1
Netherlands	18	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0
Nigeria	1	0	0
North Macedonia	1	0	0
Norway	19	0	0
Oman	6	0	2
Pakistan	4	0	0
Philippines	3	1	2
Qatar	3	0	0
Romania	3	0	1
Russia	3	0	2
S. Korea	4,335	26	30
San Marino	8	1	0
Singapore	108	0	78
Spain	120	0	2
Sri Lanka	1	0	1
Sweden	14	0	0
Switzerland	24	0	1
Taiwan	41	1	12
Thailand	43	1	30
U.A.E.	21	0	5
U.K.	40	0	8
USA	88	2	9
Vietnam	16	0	16

- President Xi Jinping says he has put Beijing's focus on containing the coronavirus in the long term, including through vaccine research; meanwhile, other nations have reported their first cases and deaths, and new infections in the Chinese mainland have fallen to their lowest level since the country took emergency measures to tackle the crisis.
- As of 2.3.2020, 5.30 pm: In Switzerland, infections with the new coronavirus have been confirmed in **30** cases by the National Reference Centre for Emerging Viral Diseases in Geneva. There have been reports of diseases from the cantons: Aargau, Basel Land, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Graubünden, Ticino, Vaud, Valais and Zurich. All those infected with the virus have been placed in isolation. The public health authorities are contacting people who have been in close contact with those infected. More than 1850 people in Switzerland have so far been tested for the new coronavirus.



Funding opportunities for researchers

SNF - Special call for research into coronaviruses

- <http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-200227-special-call-for-research-into-coronaviruses.aspx>

Possible funding - The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI):

- <https://www.euresearch.ch/en/euresearch-services/we-inform/newsletter/archive/e-alerts/e-alerts/article/imi-about-to-launch-a-call-on-the-new-coronavirus/>

Wellcome Trust:

- <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/schemes/epidemic-preparedness-covid-19>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-030.html>

Sources

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